

Amendments to the Specification:

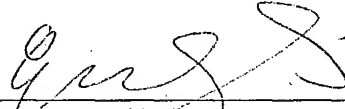
Please amend the specification by inserting before the first line the following sentence:

This application is a continuation under 1.53(b) of application number 10/140,970 filed May 7, 2002 (allowed) which is a continuation of 09/929, 587, filed August 13, 2001 (abandoned) which is a continuation under 1.53(b) of application number 09/399,628 filed September 20, 1999 which issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,302,034 on October 16, 2001, all three hereby incorporated by reference.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks and amendments to the claims, Applicant respectfully asserts that this application is in condition for allowance and requests further action commensurate thereon. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for the Applicants at 206 903 3930 to discuss this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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